WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for treating a patient having a susceptible viral infection which comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of ribavirin for a time sufficient to lower viral-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant for a time sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the interferon alfa is interferon alfa-2a, interferon-alfa-2b, pegylated interferon alfa-2a, pegylated interferon alfa-2b, or a consensus interferon or a purified interferon alfa product.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant is Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Vitamin C, coenzyme-Q10, BHA, BHT, N-acetylcysteine, selenium, panavir, silybum marianum ,lycopene, or mixtures thereof.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the Vitamin E is a water soluble Vitamin E derivative.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol ester.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol succinate ester

7. A method of treating a patient having chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of interferon-alfa and ribavirin for a time sufficient to lower HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant for a time sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the interferon alfa is interferon alfa-2a, interferon-alfa-2b, pegylated interferon alfa-2a, pegylated interferon alfa-2b, or a consensus interferon or a purified interferon alfa product.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the antioxidant is Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Vitamin C, coenzyme-Q10, BHA, BHT, N-acetylcysteine, selenium, panavir, silybum marianum, lycopene, or mixtures thereof.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein is a water soluble Vitamin E derivative is used.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol ester.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol succinate ester

13. The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprising 3MIU TIW of interferon alfa-2b and about 600 mg to about 1600 mg/day PO of ribavirin is administered for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks.

14. The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy is administered for time period at least about 48 weeks.

15. The method of claim 13 which further comprises administering about 600 to about 1600 mg per day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a second time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

16. The method of claim 14 which further comprises administering about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a third time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

17. The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 μg/kg/day QW of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

18. The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprises induction dosing amount of interferon alfa-2b and ribavirin.

19. The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprises induction therapy dosing of pegylated interferon alfa and ribavirin.

20. A method of treating a patient having a chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks a therapeutically effective amount of interferon alfa and ribavirin sufficient to lower detectable HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the interferon alfa is interferon alfa-2a, interferon-alfa-2b, pegylated interferon alfa-2a, pegylated interferon alfa-2b, or a consensus interferon or a purified interferon alfa product.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the antioxidant is Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Vitamin E, Vitamin C, coenzyme-Q10, BHA, BHT, N-acetyl cysteine, selenium, panavir, silybum marianum, lycopene, or mixtures thereof.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein a water soluble Vitamin E derivative is used.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol ester.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol succinate ester.

26. The method of claim 20 wherein the combination therapy comprising 3MIU TIW of interferon alfa-2b and about 600 mg to about 1600 mg/day PO of ribavirin is administered for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the combination therapy is administered for first time period at least about 48 weeks.

28. The method of claim 27 which further comprises administering about 600 to about 1600 mg per day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a second time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

29. The method of claim 27 which further comprises administering about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a second time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

30. The method of claim 20 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 µg/kg/day QW of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

31. The method of claim 14 wherein the combination therapy comprises induction dosing amount of interferon alfa-2b and ribavirin.

32. A method of treating a patient having a chronic HCV infection which comprises (a) administering to said patient for a first time period a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of interferon alfa and ribavirin sufficient to lower detectable HCV-RNA in association

with a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis; and (b) thereafter administering about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a second time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the interferon alfa is interferon alfa-2a, interferon-alfa-2b, pegylated interferon alfa-2a, pegylated interferon alfa-2b, or a consensus interferon or a purified interferon alfa product.

34. The method of claim 32 wherein the combination therapy comprising 3MIU TIW of interferon alfa-2b and about 600 mg to about 1600 mg/day PO of ribavirin is administered for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks.

35. The method of claim 32 wherein the combination therapy is administered for first time period at least about 48 weeks.

36. The method of claim 32 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 µg/kg/day QW of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

37. The method of claim 32 wherein the combination therapy comprises induction dosing amounts of interferon alfa-2b and ribavirin.

38. The method of claim 32 wherein the antioxidant is Vitamin A, Vitamin E, tocopherol, Vitamin C, coenzyme-Q10, BHA, BHT, N-acetyl cysteine, selenium, panavir, silybum marianum, lycopene, or mixtures thereof.

39. The method of claim 32 wherein a water soluble Vitamin E derivative is used.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol ester.

41. The method of claim 39 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol succinate ester.

42. A method of treating patients having chronic hepatitis C infection to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA comprising (a) administering to said patient, in a first treatment time period of twenty-four weeks, a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis in association with a combination of about 800 to 1200 mg per day of ribavirin and a therapeutically effective amount of interferon-alfa-2b in accordance with the following regimin: about 10 MIU daily of interferon-alfa-2b for two weeks, followed by 5 MIU daily of interferon-alfa for six weeks, followed by 3 MIU daily of interferon-alfa interferon-alfa for sixteen weeks, followed by (c) administering in a second treatment time period of twenty-four weeks about 800 to 1200 mg per day of ribavirin and 3 MIU TIW of interferon-alfa in association , a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein the antioxidant is Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Vitamin C, coenzyme-Q10, BHA, BHT, N-acetyl cysteine, selenium, panavir, silybum marianum, lycopene, or mixtures thereof.

44. The method of claim 42 wherein a water soluble Vitamin E derivative is used.

45. The method of claim 42 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol ester.

46. The method of claim 42 wherein the water soluble Vitamin E derivative is an alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol succinate ester.

Add C17